



RESOLUTION

URGING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO FUND THE RESTORATION OF THE HANAUMA BAY MARINE LIFE CONSERVATION DISTRICT FROM THE HANAUMA BAY NATURE PRESERVE FUND.

WHEREAS, the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve is a world class nature preserve located on the southeastern shore of the island of Oahu, and is a site of great interest to tourists and residents alike; and

WHEREAS, the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve, under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks and Recreation of the City and County of Honolulu ("City"), is second only to Waikiki Beach as an Oahu tourist destination, with approximately one million people visiting annually; and

WHEREAS, in 1928, the City acquired the land on which the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve is situated from the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Estate, subject to a deed restriction that the land be used as a public park; and

WHEREAS, Hanauma Bay itself, however, is under the management jurisdiction of the State of Hawaii ("State"); and

WHEREAS, Chapter 190, Hawaii Revised Statutes, stipulates that the State Department of Land and Natural Resources ("DLNR") administers all marine life conservation areas in the State; and

WHEREAS, in 1967, the Hanauma Bay Marine Life Conservation District ("HBMLCD") was established as the State's first marine life conservation district to protect and preserve Hanauma Bay's precious live reef environment and to serve as a living laboratory for research, investigation, and educational purposes; and

WHEREAS, Hanauma Bay has historical, cultural, and spiritual significance for many native Hawaiians, and Hawaiian royalty often used the Bay for fishing and other recreation; and

WHEREAS, Hanauma Bay has extensive coral formations and is home to over 450 varieties of fish, making it one of the most unique and striking underwater landscapes in the world; and



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Hanauma Bay is part of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary and is one of only 12 Hawaii Class AA marine embayments under the Federal Clean Water Act; and

WHEREAS, approximately 20 to 30 percent of the fish species and 20 percent of the coral species found in Hanauma Bay exist only in the waters surrounding the Hawaiian Islands; and

WHEREAS, Hanauma Bay's fragile coral reefs are home to several marine animals protected under the Endangered Species Act, including the Hawaiian Monk Seal ('Ilio holo i ka uaua) and the Green Sea Turtle (Honu), which is considered by many native Hawaiians to be an aumakua, and is the last remaining reptile indigenous to the Hawaiian Islands; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of the visitors accessing the HBMLCD do so through the City's Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve, where non-resident visitors must pay an entrance fee and a parking fee, if applicable; and

WHEREAS, to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the Mayor closed the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve to the public beginning on March 20, 2020, and as of September 2, 2020, it remains closed; and

WHEREAS, it has been reported that during the closure, water clarity at Hanauma Bay has improved and marine wildlife has become more plentiful; and

WHEREAS, Conservation District Use Permit ("CDUP") #OA-2957 for improvements to Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve, issued to the City by the DLNR, included a condition requiring the City to contract for the continuation of a Hanauma Bay carrying capacity study and to submit yearly updates of baseline data to the Board of Land and Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, a carrying capacity study for Hanauma Bay was completed in June 2000 and the City has contracted for a biological carrying capacity survey, which is currently ongoing, with annual reports completed in May 2019 ("Year 1 Survey") and May 2020 ("Year 2 Survey"); and

WHEREAS, the Year 1 Survey reported that visitors to the HBMLCD contributed to declines in coral cover, resource fish density, and water clarity, and that some visitors altered or destroyed corals by walking on the coral reefs in violation of State law; and



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, to address coral reef sustainability, the Year 2 Survey included a recommendation to increase the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve entrance fee and set aside \$2 per visitor to fund research, conservation efforts, a weather station, and additional staffing to increase the presence of the DLNR's Division of Aquatic Resources at Hanauma Bay; and

WHEREAS, the DLNR's Hawaii Coral Restoration Nursery maintains a biosecure Coral Ark containing the world's largest collection of rare and endemic Hawaiian corals, is one of only two facilities in the State that has successfully out-planted coral colonies in Hawaiian waters, and is the only facility in the world currently capable of successfully accelerating the growth rate of Hawaii's corals; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 6-51.2, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 1990, all moneys deposited into the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve fund must be used for the following purposes:

- (1) The operation, maintenance and improvement of the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve;
- (2) Educational and orientation programs for visitors to the Preserve; and
- (3) A carrying capacity study of the Preserve and for other studies relating to the environmental condition of the Preserve; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes that in light of the improved condition of the HBMLCD during the Preserve's closure, and the findings of the ongoing biological carrying capacity survey, the City should fund the restoration of the inner reefs of the HBMLCD with the assistance of DLNR's Hawaii Coral Restoration Nursery; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it urges the City Administration to fund the restoration of the inner reefs of the Hanauma Bay Marine Life Conservation District to protect and preserve Hanauma Bay's unique and fragile coral reef ecosystem for current and future generations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Parks and Recreation is urged to include a proposal to fund the restoration of Hanauma Bay's inner reefs utilizing monies from the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve fund in its FY 2021 budget request; and



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

No. 20-233

RESOLUTION

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City's Department of Parks and Recreation is urged to work with the State Department of Land and Natural Resources, including the Hawaii Coral Restoration Nursery and the Hawaii Coral Ark initiative, to restore the inner reefs of the Hanauma Bay Marine Life Conservation District; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Director of Parks and Recreation, the Chairperson of the State Board of Land and Natural Resources, and the Friends of Hanauma Bay.

INTRODUCED BY:

Tony Watson (BR)

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

SEP 9 2020
Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII
CERTIFICATE

RESOLUTION 20-233

Introduced: 09/09/20 By: TOMMY WATERS (BY REQUEST) Committee: COUNCIL

Title: RESOLUTION URGING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO FUND THE RESTORATION OF THE HANAUMA BAY MARINE LIFE CONSERVATION DISTRICT FROM THE HANAUMA BAY NATURE PRESERVE FUND.

Voting Legend: * = Aye w/Reservations

NOTE: EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 23, 2020, COUNCILMEMBER IKAICA ANDERSON, REPRESENTING COUNCIL DISTRICT III, RESIGNED FROM OFFICE. [Refer to Communication CC-256(20)]

NOTE: THE APPOINTMENT OF ALAN KEKOA TEXEIRA TO FILL A VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER FOR COUNCIL DISTRICT III WAS APPROVED ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2020. (refer to RES20-236, FD1)

CC-269(20) KOBAYASHI - COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS.

10/07/20 COUNCIL

RESOLUTION 20-233 WAS ADOPTED.

9 AYES: ELEFANTE, FUKUNAGA, KOBAYASHI, MANAHAN, MENOR, PINE, TEXEIRA, TSUNEYOSHI, WATERS.

I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this RESOLUTION.



GLEN I. TAKAHASHI, CITY CLERK



ANN KOBAYASHI, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER